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## Fifth Committee

**Summary record of the 33rd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 10 May 2012, at 10 a.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions*: Mr. Kelapile

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei** (*continued*) (A/66/718/Add.12 and A/66/722)

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**Agenda item 165: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)** (A/66/590, A/66/685 and A/66/718/Add.19)

1. **Ms. Casar** (Controller), introducing the proposed budget for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/722), said that the proposed funding of $256.8 million reflected a 46.3 per cent increase relative to the funding of $175.5 million appropriated for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for military contingents, primarily owing to the application of a lower delayed deployment factor to the full authorized strength; the provision for self-sustainment of contingent-owned equipment, which was made for the full year; an expansion in the aviation fleet from 6 to 12 aircraft; and additional requirements for mine detection and mine-clearing services in the conduct of border verification and monitoring activities. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 82 of the budget report.

2. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/616), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $485.1 million for the maintenance of the Operation. Subsequently, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in response to her request, had authorized the Secretary-General on 28 April 2011 to enter into commitments for UNOCI in the amount of $85.2 million to meet the Operation's critical additional requirements arising from Security Council resolutions, bringing the total resources approved for UNOCI for the 2010/11 period to $570.3 million. Expenditures for the same period had amounted to $551.5 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $18.8 million, representing a resource utilization rate of 96.7 per cent. The reduced expenditures were primarily attributable to the delay in the deployment of additional military and formed police personnel.

3. The proposed budget of $586.2 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/753) reflected a 9.3 per cent decrease relative to the $646.0 million appropriated for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were a reduction in requirements for military, police and civilian personnel and in operational costs, primarily owing to the completion of the electoral process and the related abolition of 213 positions; the completion of construction of new camps during the 2011/12 period; the limited acquisition of equipment; and the downsizing of the aviation fleet by two helicopters. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 74 of the budget performance report (A/66/616) and paragraph 94 of the budget report (A/66/753).

4. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/568), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $56.3 million for the

2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Force and that expenditures had amounted to $55.7 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $0.6 million, which represented a resource utilization rate of 99.0 per cent. The main causes of the variance were lower expenditures for military contingents, primarily owing to lower actual costs for the rotation of contingent personnel; a lower-than-budgeted cost of rations; and reduced requirements for mission subsistence allowance payable to staff officers resulting from a lower-than-budgeted euro/United States dollar exchange rate.

5. The proposed budget of $54.2 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/686) reflected a 4.1 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $56.5 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel; a decrease in staff assessments and a revised estimate for common staff costs for international staff; and a lower budgeted euro/United States dollar exchange rate applied to national staff costs. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 32 of the budget performance report (A/66/568) and paragraph 45 of the budget report (A/66/686).

6. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/652), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $1,365.0 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to $1,356.1 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $8.9 million, which represented a utilization rate of 99.3 per cent. The main causes of the variance were lower expenditures for military and police personnel owing to lower-than-budgeted rates for rations, lower rotation costs, reduced requirements for reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment and a lower-than-budgeted deployment of formed police personnel; and a reduction in expenditures for the acquisition of vehicles owing to the transfer of vehicles from liquidating missions.

7. The proposed budget of $1,338.9 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/723) reflected a 9.9 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $1,486.5 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel; reduced requirements for operational costs attributable to the exclusion of the provision for the deployment of aircraft to support the November 2011 elections and the reconfiguration of the Mission's aircraft fleet; and reduced requirements for facilities and infrastructure and ground transportation owing to the extended utilization of existing equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 57 of the budget performance report (A/66/652) and paragraph 108 of the budget report (A/66/723).

8. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/658), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $853.8 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to $810.6 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $43.3 million, representing a resource utilization rate of 94.9 per cent. The main causes of the variance were a lower actual average deployment of formed police personnel; higher actual vacancy rates for temporary staff; and lower expenditures for facilities and infrastructure owing to the cancellation of the planned construction of camps for military and police personnel and unspent balances for rental of premises.

9. The proposed budget of $644.4 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/745) reflected an 18.8 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $793.5 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel owing to a reduction in military contingent personnel by 1,600 and in formed police personnel by 1,150, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2012 (2011); reduced requirements for civilian personnel, including the abolishment of 352 temporary positions, and the discontinuation of the entitlement to hazardous duty station allowance; reduced requirements for operational costs, including lower provisions for facilities and infrastructure and communications owing to the partial drawdown of the Mission's post-earthquake surge capacities; and the reduction in the fleet of aircraft by one fixed-wing and one rotary-wing aircraft. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 50 of the budget

performance report (A/66/658) and paragraph 227 of the budget report (A/66/745).

10. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/577), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $47.9 million for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to $47.9 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $7,400, representing a resource utilization rate of 100 per cent.

11. The proposed budget of $47.0 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/673) reflected a 4.6 per cent increase relative to the funding of $44.9 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for civilian personnel owing to revised salary scales for international and national staff; higher average grade levels of national staff; and the inclusion, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/248, of provisions for travel costs of the rest and recuperation framework for international staff. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 41 of the budget performance report (A/66/577) and paragraph 59 of the budget report (A/66/673).

12. Introducing the budget performance report of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/602), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $524.0 million for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditures had amounted to $512.2 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $11.8 million, representing a resource utilization rate of 97.7 per cent. The main causes of the variance were a lower-than-budgeted cost of rotation of military contingents; lower-than-budgeted requirements for contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment; and lower expenditures for civilian personnel owing mainly to the discontinuation of the payment of hazardous duty station allowance.

13. The proposed budget of $502.2 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/691) reflected a 4.4 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $525.5 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel and the exclusion of provisions for electoral support provided by the Mission in the 2011/12 period, particularly in the areas of facilities, infrastructure and air transportation, including lower guaranteed aircraft and flight hours costs and the limited acquisition of new equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 66 of the budget performance report (A/66/602) and paragraph 96 of the budget report (A/66/691).

14. Introducing the proposed budget of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/733), she said that the proposed funding amounted to $839.8 million, reflecting a 16.3 per cent increase relative to the funding of $722.1 million the General Assembly had appropriated for 2011/12, which had been based on the standardized funding model. The main causes of the variance were the higher levels of planned deployment of civilian personnel; requirements for fuel, mine action services and construction services; and support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. The increased requirements were partly offset by reduced requirements for acquisitions of equipment, owing to acquisitions made in 2011/12 and the transfer of equipment from closing missions, as well as reduced provisions for the transportation of contingent-owned equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 103 of the report.

15. Introducing the budget performance report of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/596), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $1,808.1 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the Operation and that expenditures had amounted to $1,583.4 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $224.7 million, which represented an 87.6 per cent resource utilization rate. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel costs owing to the decrease in the ceiling man rate for fresh rations and lower-than-budgeted requirements for contingent-owned major equipment; lower-than-planned expenditures for international staff; and a lower-than-planned level of aviation activities.

16. The proposed budget of $1,521.0 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/695) reflected a 10.0 per cent decrease relative to the

funding of $1,689.3 million appropriated for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for military and police personnel; reduced requirements for air transportation owing to reconfiguration of the Operation's fleet of aircraft and lower contractual costs; and reduced construction and equipment acquisition costs, as the capital expenditures needed to bring UNAMID to its full operational capacity had been completed. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 102 of the budget performance report (A/66/596) and paragraph 108 of the budget report (A/66/695).

17. Introducing the budget performance report on the financing of support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/590), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $174.3 million for the 2010/11 period for the maintenance of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA). Subsequently, in a letter dated 28 April 2011, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had concurred with the Secretary-General's request for authorization to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $35.9 million for the 2010/11 period to meet the Mission's additional requirements arising from Security Council decisions, bringing the total resources approved for 2010/11 to $210.2 million. Expenditures for the same period had amounted to $210.1 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $0.1 million, which represented a resource utilization rate of 99.9 per cent.

18. The proposed budget of $438.3 million for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/685) reflected a 50.6 per cent increase relative to the $291.1 million appropriated by the General Assembly for 2011/12. The main causes of the variance were reimbursements to troop-contributing countries for contingent-owned equipment; expansion of the authorized force strength by 45 per cent, with uniformed personnel operating in four sectors across south-central Somalia; and the addition of 80 civilian personnel posts. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 53 of the budget performance report (A/66/590) and paragraph 137 of the budget report (A/66/685).

19. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he wished to stress the Advisory Committee's recommendation, contained in its report on observations and recommendations on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/66/718), that a review of vehicle and information technology equipment holdings should be conducted for all missions with a view to aligning holdings with the standard ratios established by the Department of Field Support.

20. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the proposed budget for UNISFA for 2012/13 (A/66/718/Add.12), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of $1 million in the Force's budget under information technology resources, noting that the proposed resources covered the requirement for a fully staffed mission and did not take into account delayed deployment or vacancy factors.

21. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the 71 new posts proposed, noting that the proposed budget reflected the expanded mandate of the Mission under Security Council resolution 2024 (2011), including additional tasks in support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and an expanded area of operations. The Advisory Committee had noted the high vacancy levels in 2011/12 for all categories of staff and urged the Secretary-General to fill the vacant posts as soon as possible. It also noted with concern that, as at 5 March 2012, the cash position of the Mission had represented a $26.7 million shortfall compared to the required three-month operating cash reserve of $34.5 million.

22. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNOCI (A/66/718/Add.18), he said that the Advisory Committee considered that the proposed vacancy factor of 10 per cent for international posts was not realistic and recommended that it should be adjusted to 15 per cent. The Advisory Committee did not object to the functions of the proposed new post of Special Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the P-5 level, but considered that the requirement could be met through the redeployment or reassignment of an approved post, and therefore requested that the Operation should review its staffing to identify an existing post for that purpose and report thereon in the context of the 2013/14 budget submission. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal to abolish a total of 213 temporary

37. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the proposed 16 international posts, 32 national posts and 54 United Nations Volunteer positions, with the exception of four posts in the Mission Support Division. Noting that only six posts were proposed for abolition owing to the transfer of functions and related staff from the UNMISS Mission Support Division to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, the Advisory Committee considered that greater efficiencies could be derived from the streamlining and integration of functions in the Mission. The Advisory Committee expected the Mission to review its requirements across its entire staffing complement with a view to identifying further efficiencies in administrative support attributable to the use of the Regional Service Centre and to report thereon in the context of the 2013/14 budget submission.

38. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2010/11 and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNAMID (A/66/718/Add.16), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of $2.3 million under consultants, training and ground transportation in the budget for 2012/13, which amounted to some $1.5 billion. The Advisory Committee took note of the recently completed review of uniformed personnel and expected that the General Assembly would be informed of the financial and administrative implications of any Security Council decision with respect to the review. The Advisory Committee also took note of the specific circumstances faced by the Operation, which had resulted in high vacancy rates, and the slow progress in the implementation of construction and engineering projects.

39. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for 2012/11 of support for AMISOM and proposed budget for 2012/13 of UNSOA (A/66/718/Add.19), he said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $321,700 in the proposed UNSOA budget for 2012/13, which amounted to some $438 million. The proposed budget included a logistical support package for an expanded AMISOM presence of 17,731 troops and formed police units in four sectors in Somalia. The support package also provided for the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment including force enablers and multipliers, as mandated by the Security Council. With the exception of four Field Service posts, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals. It considered the resources proposed for travel in connection with training to be high, and recommended that the amount should be reduced by $100,000. It also recommended approval of only 40 of the proposed 43 training consultants, as the prevailing security situation in Somalia could impact the ability of the consultants to conduct all planned activities.

40. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the programme evaluation of MINUSTAH (A/66/740), said that the Mission had responded to the acute needs in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake, while also suffering tragic losses itself. Notwithstanding the magnitude of the disaster, which had overwhelmed the Government and the international community, MINUSTAH had proved resilient and had mobilized immediately to provide critical support.

41. In 2011, MINUSTAH had realigned its activities to support the reconstruction of the country, turning its focus to maintaining political stability, facilitating the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance and supporting the National Police. By mid-2011, its core mandate had shifted to institution-building and capacity development, particularly in the area of the rule of law. However, the capacity of key national institutions remained weak, and the National Police continued to rely on United Nations police units for extensive support. It was important to note that MINUSTAH, the Government of Haiti and the international community shared responsibility for strengthening and reforming key institutions. OIOS had issued its recommendations to provide constructive feedback in the context of the Mission's new role.

42. Five recommendations, dealing primarily with human rights and the security sector, had been issued to MINUSTAH, in particular: early adoption of the proposed Haitian National Police development plan 2012-2016; strengthening of a common United Nations approach to supporting rule-of-law initiatives; and issuance of more comprehensive human rights monitoring reports on a regular basis. With regard to the latter, in December 2011 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had issued two reports on alleged killings by the Haitian National Police, with four other reports due.

43. Introducing the OIOS report on the programme evaluation of performance and achievement of results of United Nations peacekeeping activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/66/741), she noted that, as one of the largest peacekeeping operations in the history of the United Nations, MONUSCO and its predecessor, MONUC, had helped to improve security conditions in much of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and had supported the conduct of two national elections, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the work of civil society. It had also introduced innovative tools and approaches, including mechanisms to facilitate interaction between the Mission and communities and implement human rights due diligence policies, which had become models for other peacekeeping missions.

44. However, slow progress in reforming the security sector and establishing the rule of law were impeding the achievement of benchmarks for the Mission's exit. Improvements in those areas were a prerequisite for sustained progress and would require actions by many partners, including Government entities and the international community. OIOS had issued eight recommendations to MONUSCO, four of which were critical.

45. Regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, all OIOS recommendations, whether resulting from investigations or evaluations, urged United Nations organizations and entities to take all possible steps to implement and reinforce the policy of zero tolerance. Such steps must include the consistent application of accountability and sanctioning mechanisms, not only to perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse, but also to managers who failed to implement appropriate preventive or reporting systems or failed to respond to known or suspected misconduct or allegations; to those responsible for failures in security and other control systems, in cases involving military and uniformed personnel; and to police- and troop-contributing countries that failed to implement the provisions of commitments to investigate allegations and report back to the United Nations.

46. In its response to OIOS, the Administration had stated that MONUSCO, the United Nations peacekeeping operation with the largest number of staff, had achieved a 40 per cent decrease in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in 2010/11. However, under the zero-tolerance policy, a 100 per cent decrease in the number of substantiated reports of sexual exploitation and abuse was the only acceptable result.

47. As noted in the OIOS report, despite the unprecedented investment in peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, slow progress in the area of security sector reform and establishing the rule of law meant that Security Council benchmarks for the Mission's exit appear unlikely to be met in the near future.

48. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), expressed CELAC's solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti. While the international community played a crucial role in reconstructing the country, the process would only be successful if it was viewed as a sustainable, long-term effort under the leadership of the Government of Haiti and conducted with full respect for its sovereignty. CELAC therefore reiterated its full support for MINUSTAH. The Mission should be given the resources it required to fulfil its mandate, including strengthening national capacity, and should remain in the country for as long as it was needed and welcomed by the Haitian Government and people.

49. CELAC opposed any arbitrary reductions in the resources allocated to the Mission: its budget, like those of other peacekeeping missions, should be based on the situation on the ground and on the mandate approved by the Security Council, which had recently been renewed. In that regard, the high vacancy rate at MINUSTAH was a matter of concern.

50. The member countries of CELAC had demonstrated their commitment to helping the Haitian people on the path to stability, peace and development by contributing most of the military and police personnel to MINUSTAH and providing technical cooperation, humanitarian assistance and medical teams through bilateral channels, regional organizations and the United Nations system.

51. CELAC was firmly convinced that, in order to achieve stable and lasting peace in Haiti, United Nations activities should transcend security aspects and also focus on institution-building and the social and economic development of the country. Those goals had been clearly established in the renewed MINUSTAH mandate. In that regard, he encouraged the Mission to make the best use of the available capacities and resources, including its engineers, to continue

supporting the country's reconstruction and development efforts.

52. The member countries of CELAC remained willing to continue working with the Government to establish long-term development strategies within a cohesive framework, and, if necessary, to continue contributing to peacekeeping activities. CELAC welcomed the implementation of quick-impact projects and recognized their important contribution to mandate implementation, in particular through improving the relationship between MINUSTAH and the local population. Such projects should continue to be implemented in consonance with the priorities of the Haitian Government. CELAC also supported the community violence reduction programme and opposed the proposed reduction in its budget, as it formed an important part of the Mission's mandate and played an important role in mitigating conflicts in neighbourhoods and in camps for internally displaced persons.

53. The member countries of CELAC had responded promptly to the Haitian Government's request for cooperation, providing aid even before the establishment of MINUSTAH. They remained committed to ensuring appropriate resources for the implementation of the Mission's mandate and urged other Member States to continue working for the reconstruction of Haiti.

54. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that peacekeeping missions, which performed their important work in challenging environments, must be given adequate resources to implement their mandates in full. The Group was therefore concerned that, with the application of resource reduction targets, the Secretary-General's budget proposals for most missions for 2012/13 were substantially lower than their budgets for the preceding financial period. In addition, the Advisory Committee had recommended further reductions in the resource levels for some missions. The Group would scrutinize each proposal and the Advisory Committee's recommendations and reject any arbitrary reductions, measures or initiatives that might undermine the implementation of mandates and jeopardize the safety, security and well-being of peacekeepers. The Committee should allocate resources based on the specific mandates and unique circumstances of each mission and after considering the merits of each proposal.

55. **Mr. Sheck** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that, as a result of the recovery and reconstruction efforts of MINUSTAH after the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the number of displaced persons in camps had fallen by two thirds and training and infrastructure projects had achieved tangible results. Despite the improvement in security and humanitarian conditions, however, long-term development remained fragile owing to a combination of post-recovery and stabilization challenges.

56. The three delegations welcomed the appointment of the new Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe. They also supported the Mission's efforts to foster national political consensus on continuity of governance, the proper functioning of government institutions, sound management of public funds and stronger rule of law. Those efforts should be met by equal commitment and action by political leaders and stakeholders in Haiti in the interest of reform aimed at upholding the public interest, the rule of law and human rights and strengthening the economy through job creation, trade and investment.

57. With the reduction in earthquake-response operations in 2012, MINUSTAH would be able to refocus its efforts on stability and institutional capacity-building, particularly in the areas of security, democratic governance and the rule of law. He noted with concern the threat to domestic stability posed by armed groups and increased crime and trafficking. The response to those problems should include action to address institutional deficiencies in law enforcement and the judicial system. Developing the Haitian National Police as the country's primary security institution should continue to be a priority. The MINUSTAH police component did vital work in strengthening police capacity, expanding territorial coverage and protecting vulnerable groups, notably displaced persons.

58. He welcomed the fact that the decision to partially reduce the authorized force strength had been made with caution and with recognition of the complexity of the challenges in Haiti and the threat they posed to security in the region. It was important for the Mission to contribute to the country's political stability and security. The future of the Santo Domingo Support Office and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee merited particular attention.

59. **Ms. Niang** (Senegal) paid tribute to all peacekeepers who had lost their lives during the previous year in the performance of their duties. She also thanked the civilian personnel, who worked selflessly in often difficult conditions. Senegal was committed to providing the Organization's peacekeeping missions with well trained and experienced military and police contingents.

60. Noting that the overall proposed peacekeeping budget of $7.4 billion for 2012/13 was 5.5 per cent lower than in the current financial period, she called upon Member States to allocate sufficient resources to allow missions to discharge their mandates, the most important aspects of which were protecting civilian populations, promoting the rule of law and supporting the peacemaking process. Given the deterioration in security conditions in most mission areas, the first priority should be to allocate adequate resources for security activities. Her delegation remained opposed to negotiating peacekeeping budgets in the aggregate. It also had reservations about the application of across-the-board budget cuts to peacekeeping operations.

61. The current global economic situation required that the financial resources available for peacekeeping operations should be managed rationally, effectively and efficiently with a high degree of transparency. To that end, the Secretary-General should ensure that the relevant recommendations of internal and external oversight bodies were implemented.

62. The seminars organized by the Procurement Division for developing countries, particularly in Africa, should be expanded to increase the number of businesses from the South registered in the United Nations supplier database. To support economic and social development in areas hosting peacekeeping missions, the Secretary-General should instruct the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to give local and subregional suppliers a larger share of the market.

63. On death and disability claims, the Secretary-General should comply with section II, paragraphs 4 and 5, of General Assembly resolution 64/269. The processing of claims, particularly for disability, was excessively lengthy, sometimes because the Medical Service requested additional information that was irrelevant and only delayed settlement.

64. Lastly, the Secretary-General should accelerate the payment of amounts owing to troop-contributing countries. Only then would they have the necessary funds to strengthen the operational readiness of their contingents.

65. **Mr. del Rosario Ceballos** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government was committed to the reconstruction process in Haiti. In January, President Leonel Fernández, together with President Michel Martelly of Haiti, had inaugurated the Université Roi Henri Christophe in Limonade, a contribution by the Dominican Republic that would help develop Haiti's human resources.

66. Haitians themselves bore the main responsibility for advancing their country towards prosperity and democracy. However, the international community should make a commitment to assist them in overcoming challenges in meeting their urgent needs. Since the earthquake in 2010, his Government had allowed MINUSTAH to conduct activities from the Santo Domingo Liaison and Support Centre, where 100 staff members had performed operational and logistical disaster recovery tasks that did not require their physical presence in Haiti. Noting that the Centre's name had recently been changed to Santo Domingo Support Office, he emphasized that any change in the scope of its functions should have the prior consent of the host country in addition to the approval of the General Assembly.

67. The Assembly should give MINUSTAH the necessary resources to continue performing its crucial role in preserving the political, economic and social system in Haiti and thereby ease the difficulties afflicting the Haitian people.

68. **Ms. Plakalović** (Serbia) said that the continued presence of UNMIK in the province of Kosovo and Metohija was crucial in ensuring security, stability and respect for human rights and enabling all parties to work together to improve the lives of the population. The sensitivity of the situation justified the Mission's active engagement; its role and capacity should by no means be reduced. The close cooperation between UNMIK, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) enhanced security and stability.

69. It was particularly important that UNMIK should continue to represent Kosovo in international forums pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), except in cases where other arrangements were agreed upon in dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

70. The Mission should be more proactive in protecting minorities. Given the continued violations of the human rights of the non-Albanian population in Kosovo, every post in the Mission dealing with the status and needs of that population should be maintained. The Secretary-General's proposal to reassign the post of Senior Political Affairs Officer from the Office for Community Support and Facilitation to the Office of the Special Representative was therefore unacceptable. Redeployment of the post of Senior Political Affairs Officer, who served as deputy to the Head of Office and dealt with returns-related issues, could not be justified.

71. The proposal to reassign one Field Service post of Information Technology Assistant from the Mitrovica Office to the Office of the Chief of Technical Support Services in Pristina was unjustified and did not reflect real needs; the post was important for the functioning of the Mitrovica Office and should not be reassigned. Similarly, the proposal to replace the international post of Report Officer in the Office for Community Support and Facilitation with a national post would not be positive. The post concerned monitoring and reporting on the situation of non-majority communities in the Gnjilane region, and, even if filled by a member of the Serbian community, could not guarantee greater trust and better communication, especially in municipalities in which Albanians were a majority. The post should therefore remain international. The process of attrition of posts in UNMIK should be halted, particularly for those that dealt with the protection of Serbian cultural heritage and its Christian Orthodox monuments. Furthermore, vacant posts should be filled urgently.

72. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, following United Nations-certified elections in December 2011, at its inaugural session in March 2012 the newly elected National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire had elected Guillaume Soro as President of the Assembly and established all bodies required for its proper functioning, thus marking an end to the process of putting in place the legislative, executive and judicial branches. President Alassane Ouattara had appointed a new Government headed by Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio. In February 2012, President Ouattara had been elected by his peers in the subregion as President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States.

73. Since the approval of the previous UNOCI budget, the priorities of the Ivorian authorities had been to strengthen security by re-establishing the security forces and the rule of law, deploying security forces throughout the country, and transferring law enforcement functions to the relevant bodies. The security situation had improved markedly, although significant challenges remained, including as a result of land disputes, conflicts between communities and a precarious security situation in the west near the Liberian border. Government officials had returned to their posts in the north, so that State authority now extended throughout the country. Infrastructure was being restored and new roads, bridges and railways were being built. Reforms were under way in the coffee and cocoa industries and in the mining and energy sectors to promote the transparent management of the revenue they generated. The process of national reconciliation and dialogue with the opposition had begun.

74. Despite the great strides achieved in just one year, more must be done in the areas of national reconciliation and social cohesion; security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; rebuilding national capacities and re-establishing State authority; implementing a policy of decentralization; and the mobilization of humanitarian aid to support refugee return and the reintegration of displaced persons and refugees.

75. Given the major role played by UNOCI in restoring peace, security and stability to the country, his delegation was concerned by the proposed reduction in resources of $59,803,200, or 9.3 per cent, compared with the period 2011/12, and by the further reduction of $7,343,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, which together would represent a deep budget cut despite the remaining challenges and the need for electoral assistance in the organization of municipal and regional elections in 2012. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee in the sensitive areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform were a matter of particular concern. Indeed, the President had himself taken on the duties of Minister of Defence in order to accelerate those processes and had established a working group to report on defence and security structures and policies and ways of addressing problems relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Any budget cuts in that sector would be

seen as negative in view of the enormous efforts being made by the Government and its regional partners.

76. **Mr. Datuowei** (Nigeria) said that his delegation concurred with the Secretary-General's assessment that the situation in South Sudan would remain challenging in the upcoming year, with continued insecurity in parts of the country, uncertain relations with the Sudan and recurring humanitarian needs. The main responsibilities of UNMISS were to strengthen the protection of civilians, defuse local tensions before they escalated and deploy military personnel to high-risk areas. His delegation welcomed the increased resources proposed for the Mission, which would enable it to perform those tasks.

77. Troop-contributing countries must be reimbursed in a timely manner to ensure that they had the necessary resources to procure equipment and maintain personnel in the field. The $50 million borrowed from the peacekeeping reserve fund as at 15 March 2012 indicated an unhealthy state of affairs: Member States should pay their assessed contributions and the Secretariat should address the issue of funds management.

78. The success of peacekeeping operations would depend to a large extent on the proper implementation of the global field support strategy. Yet the audit report of OIOS on the implementation of the strategy (A/66/714) had not been particularly positive, the Board of Auditors had identified risks to its successful delivery and the Advisory Committee had found it difficult to assess progress in its implementation. To ensure that the goals of the strategy were realized, the Department of Field Support should implement the six OIOS recommendations which it had accepted.

79. His delegation was concerned by the proposed redeployment of 14 posts from UNMISS: given the uncertain status of the global field support strategy, an arbitrary reduction in posts might adversely affect the Mission. Moreover, efforts should be made to fill the vacancies in the Mission, whose vacancy rate remained too high.

80. **Mr. Bame** (Ethiopia) said that, since its establishment in 2011, UNISFA had provided the sole military presence in Abyei and had been discharging its mandate with commendable effectiveness and efficiency. So far, 50 per cent of approximately 113,000 displaced persons had voluntarily returned to their places of origin and there had been no reports of attacks on humanitarian workers or of inter-community violence during periods of migration.

81. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2024 (2011), the UNISFA mandate had been extended to support the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The new mandate expanded the Mission's area of operations and would therefore entail increased support requirements. His Government had worked with the United Nations to deploy its contingents expeditiously and was committed to ensuring that Abyei did not cause further deterioration in relations between the Sudan and South Sudan.

82. The Mission faced serious logistical and other challenges owing to the size of the mission area and the lack of road infrastructure. The Advisory Committee's recommendation for a reduction in the proposed budget for UNISFA was therefore unrealistic; on the contrary, the Mission needed enhanced logistical, administrative and technical support.

83. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that Haiti demonstrated the need for an integrated approach to crisis situations: a policy of stabilization geared towards providing security for the population should be complemented by projects in the areas of political and electoral reform, human rights and the rule of law, institution-building and support for economic activity. MINUSTAH had done valuable work in support of national efforts aimed at strengthening democracy and laying the foundation for sustainable development, particularly after the devastating earthquake in 2010. Recalling the results of the programme evaluation of the Mission conducted by OIOS (A/66/740), she said that every effort should be made to ensure that the Haitian public was aware of the important work done by the Mission and to avoid any incidents that might generate negative public opinion.

84. MINUSTAH should continue to strengthen national security capacities and, in close cooperation with other actors, contribute to social and economic development with the aim of achieving lasting peace. To that end, it should use its resources efficiently to support community violence reduction projects, quick-impact projects, and reconstruction and development projects.

85. Mexico would support institutional rebuilding and economic recovery in Haiti over the long term. Although the proposed reduction in resource requirements for MINUSTAH was mainly related to a reduction in its contingents, it was necessary to ensure, based on assessment of the conditions on the ground,

that the Mission had adequate resources to discharge its mandate for as long as the Haitian people and Government required and welcomed its assistance.

86. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that, as a country that contributed troops to MINUSTAH, Guatemala was committed to Haiti's development. Despite the progress made in political stability and governance, the Haitian people faced many challenges. The Mission played a crucial role in fostering development through support for Government institutions; adequate resources should therefore be provided for quick-impact projects, which had proved effective in improving institutional capacities and the delivery of social services.

87. Noting that the estimated resource requirements for the community violence reduction programme had decreased from $9 million in the previous period to $6 million in the current period, he pointed out that areas of tension remained in Haiti, in particular owing to the presence of organized militias, which jeopardized stability. MINUSTAH should be provided with adequate funding to ensure the proper discharge of its mandate in order to support Haitian institutions, which bore responsibility for the country's future.

88. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil) said that MINUSTAH faced major challenges under its complex mandate, which included support for training and equipping the Haitian National Police; addressing the resurgence in gang violence; and fostering local capacities in order to strengthen Haitian institutions. By and large, the budget proposed for the Mission allocated adequate resources for those purposes. However, there was a need to ensure proper funding for community violence reduction programmes, which had proved effective in building sustainable peace and security and were a good example of how peacekeeping missions could adapt to the specific needs of host countries. Adequate funding for quick-impact projects was also crucial. By enabling the Mission to maintain dialogue with the local population, such projects contributed significantly to the successful implementation of mandated tasks.

89. The proposed reductions in resources for rations and fuel were a matter of concern, as they did not appear to be justified or directly correlated to the actual situation. While efficiencies should be pursued in peacekeeping, they should always be based on the reality of each mission on the ground. Across-the-board cuts in key resource areas, which, regrettably, seemed to have been proposed in most of the peacekeeping budgets before the Committee, would directly affect the troops and their ability to carry out their tasks.

90. He reiterated his delegation's position that peace would be achieved in Haiti only if security and national reconciliation were addressed in conjunction with development and social justice.

91. **Mr. Chuquihuara** (Peru) said that MINUSTAH must be provided with adequate financing and that any reduction in its budget must be based not on an arbitrary decision but on the real needs of the Mission. Moreover, every effort should be made to reduce the vacancy rate in order to ensure the Mission's optimal functioning.

92. In addition to contributing troops to MINUSTAH, Peru was also a member of the Group of Friends of Haiti, the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the Organization of American States Group of Friends of Haiti, and the Latin American mechanism for political cooperation on Haiti. In the immediate future it was necessary to continue to strengthen public institutions in order to address security and development challenges, and to stabilize the fragile political situation.

93. MINUSTAH was crucial in ensuring security so that the strengthening of the rule of law, democratic governance and capacity-building could go forward. It was also essential for the Mission to be viewed positively by the Haitian people: his Government therefore welcomed the implementation of standards of conduct and preventive measures to avert situations that might undermine the image of MINUSTAH.

94. **Ms. Takahashi** (Norway) said that the situation in South Sudan was dynamic; many needs could not be planned for, so that flexibility must be ensured. UNMISS must be provided with the assets required to ensure the mobility of Mission personnel, a particular challenge in South Sudan. Specifically, she was concerned at the lack of military helicopters, which might hamper implementation of the Mission's mandate.

95. County support bases, a new structure that might offer a useful model for other missions, were a key element in protecting civilians. Her delegation also welcomed the Mission's emphasis on capacity-building — including through South-South cooperation to strengthen central State functions — as vital for peacebuilding in South Sudan.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*